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## AT HOME IN PARK CITY: Where to Stay and Play

By Anne Z. Cooke, Tribune Media Services,  
[World's Fare](#)

PARK CITY, UTAH -- How do you find a hotel room in Park City, Utah's most popular summer vacation and winter ski destination?

A decade ago you'd have called your travel agent. Today you'd look on the Internet, searching for "Park City Lodging." Which is the reason that our favorite local lodging company, the one we found by chance and have used for the past several years, recently changed its name from R&R Properties to -- yep, you guessed it -- Park City Lodging.

As names go, it's a stumble. No poetry at all. But it's also a nod to reality, popping up near the top of Google's short list when you hit enter. Take the trouble to look for it, since PCL (as I like to call it) represents nearly 200 of the best non-hotel rental chalets, cabins and condos in this historic mining town. Park City, tucked into a narrow valley in the Wasatch Mountains, was built out years ago. Boxed in by geography and regulated by strict building codes, the town has few close-in hotels, relying instead on an abundance of privately owned but seasonally occupied vacation homes for its guest lodging.

For dining and shopping, historic Main Street is the place, lined with 1880s brick structures, former banks, dry goods stores and community halls. Most lodging, however, is in Park City's mountainside neighborhoods, where restored Victorians, remodeled miners' bungalows, converted duplexes and renovated condominiums climb the hillsides.

Because we're one of those families who delight in last-minute plans, we've relied on PCL to pick a place for us. On our recent ski trip, they found a winner, a newly renovated four-bedroom, 3.5-bath duplex on Empire Avenue, looking down over the town roofs.

Large enough to sleep 10 of us, the house was tall and narrow, with four floors, a living room (TV and DVD player), dining area, a fireplace, laundry and outdoor hot tub. New kitchen cupboards and drawers, topped with granite counters, held as many pots, pans and cooking utensils as I have at home; the unit's owners, we learned, love to cook. When it snowed during our visit (fresh powder on the slopes!), we parked the car and the skis in the garage. Hooks and a bench in the adjacent hallway kept coats, hats, goggles and boots

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orderly and out of sight.

I groaned when I saw how far down Main Street was; I'd had visions of apres-ski shopping and dining. In reality, it took no more than five minutes to walk down the stair-stepped sidewalk, and no more than 12 minutes to walk back up. The place cost \$780 a night, or \$78 per person; a maid service cleaned and changed linens twice, and the hot tub man came daily. We saved on food by eating breakfasts and one dinner in.

Some travelers, who depend on a concierge and housekeeping services, don't like condo rentals. But PCL, whose office is close by, offers those same services. They'll book the airport shuttle (we rented a car), arrange for lift tickets, reserve a sleigh ride, or help with ski and snowshoe rentals. If you provide a grocery list, they'll shop and stock your refrigerator before you arrive. If you're mixing business with pleasure, they book conference rooms and a caterer.

During another winter stay, PCL put six of us in a former miner's shack, a renovated three-bedroom bungalow right at the high end of historic Main Street, itself. With this posh Main Street address, we were sitting pretty, out of the traffic flow but near the shops, restaurants, art galleries, craft stores and the microbrewery. What a hoot.

From the outside, the house looked tiny, with its traditional clapboard siding, second-floor dormers, matching shutters and a covered front porch. But the modest architecture concealed a spacious and elegantly arranged interior, with a new kitchen, dining area, rear porch, hot tub, enclosed garage and beyond the rear French doors, a yard and a rushing creek. The second floor had three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Park City Lodging offers a range of properties, from exclusive peeled-log chalets on acreage to affordable double rooms near the ski slopes. All are listed on PCL's Website (not by price), each with photos. If you have dates, call to reserve space. Or do it our way: wait to see what the weather's like, think it over, and then let them surprise you.

#### INCIDENTAL INTELLIGENCE:

Park City Lodging is one of a half-dozen lodging agents in Park City. Their prices, averaging \$389 a night, are competitive. Each property is individually owned and furnished, with a unique personal feel. The average length of stay is 6.5 nights per guest or group.

Write to P.O. Box 827, 2064 Prospector Avenue, Park City, Utah 84060. Call 800-348-06759, or 435-649-6175, or visit [www.parkcitylodging.com](http://www.parkcitylodging.com).

For more, contact the Chamber of Commerce at [www.parkcityinfo.com](http://www.parkcityinfo.com). For Park City Mountain Resort go to [www.parkcitymountain.com](http://www.parkcitymountain.com).

Anne Z. Cooke and Steve Haggerty explore the world from Venice, Calif. They can be reached at [TravelsWithAnne@cs.com](mailto:TravelsWithAnne@cs.com).

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